

## **Technical Procedures for Non-Traditional Automated Searching**

### **1 Scope**

Prints may be searched outside of the traditional Next Generation Identification System. Due to the limitations of bulk searching of Next Generation Identification System records or searches against non- Next Generation Identification System databases, appropriate documentation as required by the Friction Ridge Discipline Operations Manual, Standard Operating Procedures for the Next Generation Identification System, cannot be maintained. Therefore, any actionable results from these types of searches will be considered potential matches only, and will not be disseminated outside of the FBI Laboratory until the required examination documentation can be generated within the appropriate investigative case file.

These procedures apply to authorized personnel who are qualified to perform friction ridge print comparisons, and who will screen the results from bulk searches or automated systems other than the Next Generation Identification System. The policy does not apply to the routine sharing of friction ridge prints as noted in the Friction Ridge Discipline Operations Manual, Standard Operating Procedures for the Next Generation Identification System.

### **2 Equipment/Materials/Reagents**

The workstation consists of equipment and software provided and maintained by the Criminal Justice Information Services Division or other agency according to division or agency specifications and requirements.

### **3 Establishment of Search Requirements**

Prior to conducting searches outside of the traditional Next Generation Identification System, details of the search will be recorded within the case file. When not practical, such as with bulk searches, they can alternately be documented in an Electronic Communication. Details will include the customer, population or repositories of prints to be searched, parameters of the search, format of search results, and conditions under which comparisons will stop, if applicable. The Electronic Communication will be approved by the Technical Leader, appropriate Unit Chief(s), and the Next Generation Identification System Program Manager. The remaining FBI Laboratory Friction Ridge Discipline Unit Chiefs will be included on the distribution list.

### **4 Comparison of Search Results**

Conclusions will be rendered according to the FBI Friction Ridge Discipline Operations Manual, Technical Procedures for Examining Friction Ridge Prints and will be performed only as a

screening step. Due to the limitation on retaining examination records, identifications will be considered potential matches only, and must be re-worked with full documentation in order to be reported. Additionally, all identities must be cleared prior to release.

## **5 Exploitation of Results**

**5.1** Potential matches will be vetted to determine the appropriate next course of action based on classification, previous reporting, or ownership. Prints determined to have ownership outside of the FBI may require coordination with the owner of the record before any dissemination of results occurs. In these instances, the potential match may be returned to the owner to take action.

**5.2** All potential matches to be released by the FBI Laboratory must be re-compared and all appropriate quality steps must be completed prior to releasing the result. All applicable examination records will be created and retained, and any reporting of results will follow the Friction Ridge Discipline Quality Assurance Manual, Laboratory Reports, Reviews and Retained Records or the Friction Ridge Discipline Quality Assurance Manual, Investigative Lead, Intelligence, or Information Products.

## **6 Standards and Controls**

Not applicable.

## **7 Sampling**

Not applicable.

## **8 Calculations**

Not applicable.

## **9 Measurement Uncertainty**

Not applicable.

## **10 Limitations**

Not applicable

## 11 Safety

Not applicable.

## 12 References

FBI Friction Ridge Discipline Operations Manual, Technical Operating Procedures for Examining Friction Ridge Prints, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Laboratory Division. Latest Revision.

FBI Friction Ridge Discipline Operations Manual, Standard Operating Procedures for the Next Generation Identification System, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Laboratory Division. Latest Revision.

FBI Friction Ridge Discipline Quality Assurance Manual, Laboratory Reports, Reviews and Retained Records. Latest Revision.

FBI Friction Ridge Discipline Quality Assurance Manual, Investigative Lead, Intelligence, or Information Products. Latest Revision.

Rev. #	Date	History
0	12/13/18	Original issuance of document
1	07/15/21	Section 3 and Section 4 moved to end and sections renumbered. Latent Print Units changed to Friction Ridge Discipline throughout. Section 4, clarified expected work and added requirement to clear identities. Section 5.1, changed comparison to potential match. Section 5.2 clarified expected work.

**Approval**

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Friction Ridge Discipline  
Technical Leader

Date: 07/14/2021

Latent Print Operations  
Unit Chief

Date: 07/14/2021

Latent Print Support Unit  
Chief

Date: 07/14/2021

Scientific and Biometrics  
Analysis Unit Chief

Date: 07/14/2021